Completion of Kandla—Bhatinda BG line

*109. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Kandla—Bhatinda broad-gauge line will be completed;

(b) how much cost it will take; and

(c) how many narro gauge lines in Gujarat are to be converted into broad gauge lines in this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Kandla—Bhatinda direct BG link would become available by 31-3-1996.

(b) The project is estimated to cost around Rs. 700 crores.

(c) Nil.

Rehabilitation policy for project affected people

*110. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised rehabilitation policy for project-affected people of Konkan Railway; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of project affected people on Konkan Railway Project are in the mood of agitation since the rehabilitation has not been considered eligible by Railway Authorities or by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Compensation is paid for land and buildings, trees and other structures acquired for the Project at rates as determined by the District Authorities of the State Governments. In addition, persons who have lost their entire source of livelihood, as certified by the District Authorities, are given employment on the Project. On the Konkan Railway Project, even those local people who have been partially affected have been given temporary employment in the Construction stage.

(b) No, Sir.

Guidelines for wildlife tourism

*111 SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has a proposal to draw-up guidelines for Wildlife tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to regulate the protection of wildlife in the protected areas, and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A draft outline has been prepared and this is in the process of consultation with various experts and interested agencies before finalisation.

(c) and (d) The important steps taken by the Government to protect and promote the tiger and other endangered species are as under:—

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Tiger Reserves.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger Areas.

(iv) Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(v) A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of Wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(vi) International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(vii) A scheme of eco-development has been launched to reduce the biotic pressure on the area and winning over the support of local people to the aspect of wildlife conservation.